

Maxwell proposes that vision has at least four aspects:

1. The ability to see - awareness

He then demonstrates how to increase your awareness, especially your awareness of what God wants to do in and through you:

“Choose to believe that the Holy Spirit wants to do your day with you.

“Learn to take a "precious pause" in the midst of all your excitement and pressure

“Saturate your mind with Scripture - Knowledge is learning what God has said and done; perspective is understanding why God has said or done it.

2. The faith to believe - attitude

“Never tell a person that something cannot be done. God may have been waiting for centuries for somebody ignorant enough of the impossibilities to do that very thing.”

“Eugene Peterson paraphrases Romans 4:18-21 as follows: "When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway - deciding not to live on the basis of what he saw he couldn't do, but on the basis of what God said He would do. Abraham didn't focus on his own impotence and say, 'It's hopeless. This hundred-year-old body could never father a child.' Nor did he survey Sarah's decades of infertility and give up. He didn't tiptoe around God's promise, asking cautiously skeptical questions. He plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God, and sure that God would make good on what He had said.”

“There are many factors which influence your ministry which you have no control over: your background, nationality, age, giftedness. These were determined by the sovereignty of God. But there is one important factor that you do have control over: how much you choose to believe God.

“‘Saying, 'It is impossible,' is not an excuse. Today we are doing thousands of things our grandparents knew to be impossible.”

3. The courage to do - action

Churchill said, "There comes a moment in everyone's life, a moment for which that person was born. That special opportunity, when he seizes it, will fulfill his mission, a mission for which he is uniquely qualified. In that moment, he finds greatness. It is his finest hour."

Comments about courage:

“Courage rises when the cause is greater than the circumstances; courage falls when the circumstances are greater than the cause.

“The leadership position doesn't give us courage, but courage may give us the leadership position. Great leaders display courage based on passion, not position.

“When we fail to have courage, Jesus encourages us to deal with our failure.

“Our flesh encourages us to live in the comfort-zone. God encourages us to live in the courageous zone.

“Henry Blackaby in *Experiencing God* says: "Some people say, 'God will never ask me to do something I can't do.' I have come to the place in my life that, if the assignment I sense God is giving me is something I know I can handle, I know it probably is not from God. The kind of assignments God gives in the Bible are always God-sized. They are always beyond what people can do because He wants to demonstrate His nature, His strength, His provision, and His kindness to His people and a watching world. That is the only way the world will come to know Him."

Maxwell's "lessons on the courageous zone":

“Courage begins with fighting the battles over my own character, self-discipline, and will.

“Courage will be called for almost immediately in a leader's life. It's lonely at the top so you had better know why you are there.

“Courage means making things right, not fixing things up. Courage deals with principles, not perceptions.

“Courage by the leader usually translates into commitment by the followers.

“My life has expanded in proportion to my courage. Courage: the power to let go of the familiar.

4. The hope to endure - achievement

“Paul said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith."

“James wrote, "Blessed in the man who endures temptation, who perseveres under trial; because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him"

“The word "endure" means to "hold up under fire; having the ability to withstand hardship, adversity or stress; to remain firm under difficulty, without yielding."

“"The nose of a bulldog is slanted backwards so he can continue to breathe without letting go." - Churchill

“When nothing seems to help, I go and look at a stonecutter hammering away at his rock, perhaps a hundred times without as much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the hundred and first blow it will split in two, and I know it was not that blow that did it - but all that had gone before.

If this type of material is of interest to you, may I suggest a subscription to the INJOY Life club? John Maxwell produces something of this nature each month, and I have yet to be really disappointed in the material. You can contact INJOY at 800-333-6506. If you are really serious about leadership, you won't regret your call.